



MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS

Newsletter

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Summer 2008

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers
Secretary of Health

Arlene Stephenson
*Acting Deputy Secretary for
Public Health Services*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps is available to provide health related services via health professionals, supplementing local existing resources during emergencies or disasters.

MPVC is a registered Medical Reserve Corps with the National Association of County & City Health Officials.



The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.

Program Funding Support

- ✓ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- ✓ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

MESSAGE FROM MARK BAILEY,

Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps Coordinator

News stories abound these past few months relating to disasters occurring at the national and international level. The earthquake in China, the monsoon in Myanmar/Burma, the flooding in the Midwest are just a few of the natural catastrophes that have killed thousands. Disaster relief efforts have been put to the test and the need probably won't abate as hurricane season begins.

These events serve as a constant reminder of how random and devastating the forces of nature can be. It also serves as a reminder of how critical it is for individuals and families to be prepared for the unexpected. How fully have you tested or implemented your emergency preparedness plan? Do you have one?

Volunteers responded in great numbers to all these events. In a local or regional disaster, you, as an MPVC member, could be called upon to assist and respond.

This office continues to promote and assist volunteers with their state of readiness. Psychological First Aid training was held late spring, attended by over 100. A state-wide pan flu exercise was held in June involving emergency response volunteers. A SurveyMonkey was used to better gauge the availability of volunteers to respond. A fall training conference is scheduled targeting new registrants and volunteers that have not attended emergency training previously. We will continue to support volunteer readiness efforts.

I hope to see many of you at the fall training conference and commend you on your continuing assistance with keeping Maryland ready to respond.



**Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy,
and Prepared Communities**

Submitted from Board of Pharmacy

Following the September 11th attacks, the Secretary of the DHMH requested that the Maryland Board of Pharmacy create a Bio-Terrorism Task Force. The Task Force created a plan for recruiting, training, activating and deploying professional volunteers to areas needing their expertise and assistance.

Pursuant to the Task Force's directives, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy began recruiting and training pharmacists and technicians throughout the State. The first training sessions were centered around the primary agents that could potentially be used by terrorists; e.g. anthrax. The training was designed to help the pharmacists and technicians become better prepared to utilize their valuable skills to help their families, neighbors and fellow citizens of Maryland during a declared state of emergency. The trainees were updated on the various "Bugs and Drugs" that might be encountered, and were introduced to the concept of Incident Command System (ICS). They also received training on various legal issues and liability protections.

Since then, the Board of Pharmacy has worked with the DHMH, MEMA, CDC, other federal and state agencies, and local county health departments in planning for possible acts of terrorism and more recently the threat of catastrophic diseases such as Avian influenza. Pharmacy volunteers have been active in the Board of Pharmacy training, training at Points of Dispensing (POD) at both the local health department level and the State level, and at the Receipt, Store and Stage (RSS) State sites. Our volunteers continue to show their professionalism and dedication to protecting all of the citizens of Maryland, and the Board would like to sincerely thank all of our pharmacy volunteers for their continued support.

Don Taylor, Pharmacy Board President

RETRACTION STATEMENT– The Board of Physicians does not have on-line E.P. training for Physicians and Allied Health professions as stated in the last issue.

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The mission of the Office of Preparedness and Response is to provide expert technical guidance and leadership for DHMH as the lead for Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8 health and medical) to coordinate a public health emergency response in the State of Maryland.

Appointment of Director for Office of Preparedness and Response

Ms. Sherry B. Adams, R.N., B.S., CPM has been appointed the director of OP&R and has been with us since May 5, 2008. Ms. Adams has outstanding experience in the area of emergency preparedness and response. She has worked for the Washington, D. C. Department of Health for the past 13 years and most recently served as Assistant Senior Deputy Director of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration (HEPRA). She was responsible for the day to day operation of HEPRA, as well as ensuring the readiness and operational capability of the D. C. Department of Health to respond to and recover from local emergencies. Ms. Adams served as operations director for the response to September 11, 2001 and to the subsequent release of anthrax in the District of Columbia.

Welcome Sherry Adams to MPVC Management team and OP&R!

Pandemic Flu Statewide Exercise 2008

The Office of Preparedness and Response, in cooperation with a variety of private and public organizations and hundreds of staff and volunteers, conducted a state-wide pandemic flu exercise June 17-19. A flu outbreak similar to the one that occurred in 1918 has the potential to have a significant negative impact on nearly every component of daily life as we know it both nationally and internationally.

Many components of the response system were activated. This included an MPVC volunteer notification in response to multiple requests for trained and licensed health workers, a community call-up of faith-based and retired physician volunteers in Easton, and an ambitious community surveillance and simulated anti viral distribution effort in Laurel involving the Prince George's County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. Experience has shown that these exercises are critical in assessing how prepared resources are to react to disaster events. An *After Action Report* (AAR) will be available, documenting how effective the exercise was in meeting its goal of testing the effectiveness of a response to a pandemic flu outbreak.

VOLUNTEER CORPS FACE-TO-FACE



Submitted by Becky Estelle Leach, LPN (Pink shirt in front) MPVC volunteer

"The Alpha Team all set for the busy day at The Ames Elementary School (clinic) where we saw Katrina survivors who needed medical and psychiatric assistance and a personal touch from those who care."

Thanks Becky for sending us your picture and keeping in touch.



A RAPID Psychological First Aid training/workshop was held June 4th, attended by over 100. The session was conducted by George Everly from the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness. MPVC professionals were well represented that day. The RAPID model incorporates Reflective listening, Assessment of needs, Prioritization, Intervention, and Disposition. This training prepares professional volunteers with a methodology to respond to the devastating impact an emergency or disaster has on the emotional and mental well-being of catastrophe victims.

Photo to right: Ronald Parris, Physician Assistant, getting his photo taken for an MPVC badge



Shown in photo to the right at the RAPID Psychological First Aid Training held June 4th MPVC: left corner-Michele Alford, right corner-Diane Moses, on the right of Diane-Missy, Y. Kifetew



ESAR-VHP Update

The Office of Preparedness and Response is in the end stage of ensuring that the state is compliant with national standards addressing the registration of health care volunteers for emergency response purposes. This consists of selecting a combination registration, notification, activation and credentialing product.

Local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Update

The Montgomery County MRC participated in recovery efforts mid June during a very serious water outage in the downtown area.

The Baltimore County MRC organized an exercise this past spring on the Campus of the Towson University involving the campus nursing students and the Civilian Defense Force.



DhMH
**Office of Preparedness
and Response**
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD. 21201



Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps

invites you to an all day
orientation and training scheduled
for **Tuesday, September 23, 2008** at the
Ten Oaks Conference Center
5000 Single Bell Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029
(Howard County)

Topics that will be covered include:

- Volunteer Legal and Liability Issues
- Chemical Laboratory Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities
- Vulnerable Populations
- Behavioral and Mental Health Considerations for Victims and Responders
- NIMS/ICS
- Strategic National Stockpile and Cities Readiness Initiative
- Bugs and Drugs
- Personal and Community Preparedness

Photographs will be taken for your emergency responder identification badge

....see you in September.....National Preparedness Month!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

*To download registration form go to <http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm>
September 23 training form, then fax it to the number which is on the bottom of the form .
For questions about registering call Sandy DeLaney, Training Specialist at Howard
Community College, 410-772-4458.*

Registration is free, but required. The class size is limited, so register early.

"Maryland Community College Association for Continuing Education and Training is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation."

This offering is for 6.5 contact hours"

Credit Hours (Category 1) are provided and approved by the Maryland
Board of Social Worker Examiners. 6.5 Credit Hours for Social Workers

Other Disciplines may qualify for CEUs. Check our Web site for further postings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MPVC AND TRAINING AGENDA CONTACT:

*Mark Bailey, MD Professional Volunteer Corps Coordinator, mbailey@dhmh.state.md.us
410-767-7772 or*

Chris Plummer, Behavioral Health Coordinator, cplummer@dhmh.md.us 410-767-0959



MPVC UPDATES

SURVEYMONKEY

Nearly 400 MPVC members recently completed a SurveyMonkey survey. The questions probed the availability of MPVC volunteers to respond to an actual emergency. The results have been reviewed and contain much information to better gauge how effectively the MPVC could support disaster response. A more complete analysis of the data will be conducted and the results will be made available in the next newsletter and on the OP&R Web site.

We wanted to share with you some results you may find interesting. The total response to the survey was **369** from a variety of professionals. Also we found these two questions to be of interest: Have you discussed your MPVC volunteer registration with your employer? Response, **62.1% Yes** **37.9 % No** If yes, does your employer support your commitment? Response, **56.9% Yes** **3.3% No** **39.8% Not sure**



CURRENT VOLUNTEER COUNTS

•Board of Physicians	654
•Board of Nursing	3044
•Board of Pharmacy	597
•Board of Veterinarians.....	269
•Board of Dentistry	72
•Board of Social Work	713
•Board of Professional Counselors	197
•Board of Psychology	97
•Psychiatric Physicians	26
•Psychiatric Nurses	36
•Morticians/Funeral Directors.....	3
TOTAL = 5703	

RECRUITMENT

There are two new volunteer groups that now have members registered with the MPVC. These are the morticians/funeral directors (and their support staff) and faith-based volunteers from the Clergy Response Team. Jim Bruzdinski and Bill Bradway were instrumental in getting these two groups on board.

"Wherever a man turns he can find someone who needs him". Albert Schweitzer

**For those who may not have received our message
In Recognition of National Volunteer Month**

The Office of Preparedness and Response is grateful that you are a member of the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps. We appreciate your willingness to respond in time of need if an emergency arises or a disaster strikes, supporting a "Prepared Maryland."



The MPVC Staff

NICE HEARING FROM YOU!

Feedback from some volunteers after receiving their National Volunteer Appreciation Month Cards

- * Thank you...That was very thoughtful.
Sincerely,
Robin McGill CS-P
- * Thank you for your kind note.
Victoria Anderson RN
- * Dear DHMH folks,
THANKS! It's my pleasure to volunteer.
Colleen Bowers
- * Thank you.
It's nice to be appreciated.
John Steinberg, MD
- * And thank you, Chris, and your staff for supporting us! Helen-Mae



**DEPARTMENT OF
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[http://
bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/
volunteer.htm](http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm)

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REMINDERS AND QUICK NOTES!



- ✓ **CONTACT INFO**– Send us updates on your contact information, e-mail and address changes. We are getting lots of returned mail which means you aren't hearing from us.
- ✓ **LIST SERV**– In another year our goal is to go virtually paperless, so we need your e-mails to send the newsletters and updates.
- ✓ **BADGES**– Please take time to contact Chris Plummer to get your badge if you have been trained and never received one. It can be done by e-mail and mail/fax.
cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us , 410-333-5000 Fax
- ✓ **MPVC APPLICATIONS**– have been updated and can be downloaded from our Web site or your Board's Web site. All applications must be in the new 2 page format dated 2007/08 with your designated Board on top. ***We encourage every volunteer to fill one out and return it to their board so that vital information can be entered into our notification system.***
- ✓ **MPVC PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS**– Each Professional Board is in need of volunteer assistance for data entry, filing, and MPVC contact information updates. If interested please contact Chris, cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us, 410-767-0959
- ✓ **NEW RESOURCE** — (***Community and Personal Preparedness Resources Web page***)
Look for a new Web page on the OP&R, Office of Preparedness & Response Web site with documents and templates to support families and communities in planning for emergencies. More to come during National Preparedness Month in September.